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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/065,486	10/23/2002	Tin-Su Pan	124695	7326

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EXAMINER

SULLIVAN, JULIANNE M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3768

DATE MAILED: 04/21/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/065,486	PAN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Julianne M. Sullivan	3737	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 November 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 and 21-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 and 21-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 09 December 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicants' arguments with respect to Claims 1-17 and 21-28 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. The Examiner has introduced a different reference, Barni (U.S. Patent No. 6,473,634), to meet the limitations of the amended claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

2. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

3. Claims 9-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. First, Claim 9, in line 3, appears to inferentially claim the human body, where it recites "the patient." It is suggested that this line be amended to read, "an imaging system adapted to have the patient disposed for imaging by said imaging system," or a similar modification. Second, Claim 9, in line 6, appears to improperly combine an apparatus and a method, which, although each separately is a statutory class, are not patentable when combined in this manner. It is suggested that this line be amended to read, "a processing device, wherein said processing device executes the following steps:" or a similar modification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this

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subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11-15, 21, 24, 26 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Barni (U.S. Patent No. 6,473,634).

Barni teaches a method and system for registering images of a patient using retrospective gating including determining a target area, obtaining scout image data of the target area, processing the target area to create a plurality of sub-target areas of interest, computing a desired acquisition time having a duration greater than the duration of a breathing cycle of the patient, imaging each sub-target area, combining the sub-target area image data to create a set of image data, processing the image data set to determine a phase and synchronizing the phase, where the target area of interest corresponds to a size of a target and is associated with an object to be imaged, where the set of image data corresponds to the target area of interest, where synchronizing the phase uses the phase to correlate image data, where the system includes an imaging device, a processing device and a storage medium with machine-readable computer program code, and the reference further teaches a method of assigning phases in an image by imaging an object to create image data and system data, where the system data includes physiological information, that is respiratory cycle data, and the imaging system information corresponds to each respiratory cycle (col. 1, lines 7-15 and 65-67, col. 2, lines 1-51, col. 3, lines 11-30 and 40-58, col. 4, lines 36-67, col. 5, lines 1-60 and Figs. 1-4). The Examiner has interpreted Claim 21 as means plus function language, thus invoking the sixth paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112, and the Examiner has looked to the specification for a description of the structure claimed. Although Barni does not provide the exact structure described in the specification, it is a functional equivalent because it serves the same purpose of determining target areas and sub-

target areas of interest, imaging the areas, combining and processing the image data and synchronizing the data, and it achieves the same result of registering images of a patient using retrospective gating.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 2, 5, 10, 16 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barni in view of General Electric Company (European Patent Application No. 1090586) (hereinafter "EP 1090586").

Barni teaches all of the features of the present invention except for expressly disclosing that the size of the sub-target area corresponds to a size of a detector in a selected axis and that the acquisition time corresponds to a physiological cycle plus at least one of two-thirds of a gantry rotation time or one rotation time. In the same field of endeavor, EP 1090586 teaches slices from a CT imaging device that correspond to the size of a detector on an axis (paras. 26 and 27 and clause 50). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have subdivided the target area into sub-targets matching the size of the detectors when planning an imaging sequence in order to simplify the processing of the data collected. Although EP 1090586 does not explicitly teach an acquisition time of one physiological cycle plus two-thirds or one gantry rotation time, the reference does teach an asynchronous scan that offsets the gantry rotation and the physiological cycle (paras. 6 and 25).

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It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have used such an acquisition time in order to ensure full coverage of the physiological cycle by the imaging device.

8. Claims 8, 17 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barni in view of Shao et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0233039).

Barni teaches all of the features of the present invention except for expressly disclosing that the PET emission data is synchronized with the phase. In the same field of endeavor, Shao et al. teaches matching PET data to the respiration phase of a subject being imaged (paras. 10, 48 and 68). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have synchronized the PET data with the phase of Barni in order to improve the alignment of the images.

9. Claims 25 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barni in view of Hu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,073,041).

Barni teaches all of the features of the present invention, including determining a reference point in the data (col. 4, lines 66-67 and col. 5, lines 1-60), except for expressly disclosing that a phase of zero was assigned to the reference point and a phase of 2π was assigned to a subsequent reference point, where the synchronizing included selecting images with corresponding phases and that the phase was adjusted when the reference point occurred when the imaging system was not active. In the same field of endeavor, Hu et al. teaches a system for retrospective gating of images using an assigned phase based on the respiratory cycle, where subsequent reference points were also assigned a phase, in order to register the images, where the phase was adjusted when the reference point occurred when the imaging system was

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not active (col. 6, lines 58-67, col. 7, lines 1-67, col. 8, lines 1-56, col. 11, lines 10-67 and col. 12, lines 1-14). Although the particular phase values of zero and 2π were not specifically taught, Hu et al. does teach periodic cycles; thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have used such values to characterize the periodicity of the phases assigned.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Julianne M. Sullivan whose telephone number is 571-272-6084. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:00am to 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Casler can be reached on 571-272-4956. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



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